PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE THE BRAC'S DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC POLICY OPTIONS REGARDING CLIMATE VARIABILITY

Any public policies aimed at addressing climate variability must:

- Aim to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide while the economy continues to grow, new jobs are created and the standard of living for all Americans increases;
- Incorporate a fully transparent cost-benefit assessment as part of any carbon emission reduction program so that consumers can be made aware of the potential economic impacts of policies prior to their implementation;
- Encourage the rapid research, development, demonstration and deployment, through public-private partnerships, of a broad spectrum of supply-side and demand-side technologies and practices, including energy efficiency, renewable technologies, fossil energy technologies (with and without carbon capture and storage) and nuclear energy;
- Allow the utility sector to continue to supply consumers with adequate supplies of clean, affordable and reliable energy and to recover all costs necessary to achieve any greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction levels sought by public policies;
- Involve all sectors of the economy, all sources and sinks and all types of GHGs;
- Recognize that climate variability is a global phenomenon that requires comprehensive, long-term and worldwide responses;
- Recognize that the time frame for implementation of any GHG reduction requirements must be tied to technology availability, reliability and economic feasibility in order to avoid unacceptable impacts on consumers;
- Target revenues generated by a climate change program to the rapid development and deployment of technologies to capture and store GHGs; and
- Allow greater access to public lands for the development of domestic energy resources -- such as renewables, oil-and-gas, oil shale and coal -- that can be used in power generation technologies that can help America reduce its GHG intensity.